



I, The Druid



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Chapter 1 by Jayde Avalon

Lyridel sighed with contentment beneath her dearest friend, Tatharîs, the Willow-Queen. This woods was her favorite haunt. She had named her favorite trees--Tatharîs, the great weeping willow, Belegdorn, the Mighty Oak, Cullasorn, the beautiful Autumn Blaze maple, and Telvolas, the silver-leaf maple. They, in turn, had apparently nicknamed her Galadhwen, or "tree-maiden."

She was a 15-year-old girl, caramel-complected and chocolate-haired, with brown eyes that had a strange butterscotch glow in the sun. She always dressed in earth tones that matched the season, and had a peculiar affinity for nature, particularly trees. She claimed that "trees have a voice of their own, and you can understand what they're saying if you listen with an open mind and willing heart."

The trees suddenly rustled and roared. "Galadhwen," she thought she heard. Placing her hands on Tatharîs's and Belegdorn's trunks, she opened her mind and listened. She could feel agitation. Following the direction the trees seemed to be pointing, Lyridel noticed a small group of architects and a few landscapers.

They were looking at her woods

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Chapter 2 by Phantom

Lyridel had never dealt with a group of people in a forest, a sacred and holy place, untouched by all but the wind and the sun. Though Lyridel was not a fool, or ignorant of the ways of men, many whispers had arrived on the winds, whispers of

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warning: Men bring death and destruction. They had beasts of metal and fire that consumed entire woodlands in days. They would divert whole rivers, turning lush green lands into desert...

Lyridel knew she had to stop them. She hoped they would see reason. So she did something she had never done before, she showed herself to the men. Her ethereal presence condensed into her almost human form. She did her best to imitate the woman who was with them taking notes, even tying back her wild chocolate hair. She emerged from the woods wearing an outfit of little more than leaves and a few small furs. She was going to beg the men to leave her forest alone...

Chapter 3 by Grace1517



"Well, well. Lookie here." one of the men said, studying her body

"I beg you to leave my forest and all of the living things in it alone," Lyridel said

"I might consider" one of the men said, licking his lips

"If you do, I will reward you," she said seductively

"Will you?" one of them said

"I always keep my promises, now all you have to do is keep yours"

Chapter 4 by Smurffi_IX



The men took a step back, thinking.

"And why would we leave?" The woman among them asked. She seemed embarrassed, probably because an almost naked copy of her was seducing her coworkers.

One of them drew the others a little away from Lyridel. In a hushed voice they they discussed what to do.

"We'll leave, collect our... ehm reward and then, then we'll come back. We'll get both the woods and to... you know. She won't be able to do anything, the law will be on our side." They agreed on it.

"So. We will withdraw, but meet us by those tents tonight." Lyridel smiled.

"Of course."

Chapter 5 by Smurffi_IX



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Lyridel stood now in the middle of the gathering. There were perhaps five men in total, nothing special for her. She eyed them one at a time and ended back to the first man.

"And who goes first?" She asked with a playful smile. Why not have a little fun? as long as the forest was safe. They looked at each other, obviously, they hadn't talked this out.

Sending a blink to the man who had talked earlier, she crawled into one of the tents. He followed happily and said something to his fellows as he unbuckled his belt. He had taken off his shirt and was looking at Lyridel with an unhealthy smile when the first scream came.

Chapter 6 by Kitiðn



The men outside heard the howl and rushed to the tent, but no sooner had they arrived, that they heard their colleague talking in the tent.

After an hour Lyridel appeared from the tent, leading her temporary concubine by the hand, and giving him one last kiss in front of the others, before turning and eyeing the rest of her midnight lovers.

One spoke and said *"that put the colour in his cheeks"* and they all started laughing between themselves. *"Who is next"* said Lyridel with an impish smile, that charmed present company. She slowly walked over to them and stared pointing at them with a teasing finger. *"You, or perhaps you, no maybe you, then again perhaps two of you?"* She said in a seductive voice.

The men could not cope with tension and two quickly volunteered, and again were lead into the tent hand in hand by Lyridel. Once again, the outside world bore whiteness to screams, from within the tent, and once again Lyridel came out hand in hand.

She looked at the other three workmen, and suggested that perhaps they could come back the following evening for their traded award, and after some discussion they all disagreed.

"very well," said Lyridel. She took another by the hand and lead him into the tent, and this continued until each one had been attended by Lyridel.

"I have now fulfilled my commitment to the bargain we had agree." The men partly sniggered,

"and this was the first time they had seen her since they had been taken into the tent. The men gave no assurance as they began to turn and walk away and left Lyridel standing alone in the cold evening air, under a grapefruit moon."

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The men knew exactly what they were going to do, and in two days from now the forest would start being felled.

Lyridel stood watching their silhouettes merge into the distance, and thought, "*You foolish people, did you think that I Lyridel would be defiled by the likes of you?*" She laughed, "*take your memories home and enjoy them, but no need to rush, as you shall and an eternity for that.*"

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